Lizard, *Trachysaurus rugosus* (Gray). Driving at 7.30 p.m. on January 22 from the Research Station to the settlement after a heavy shower of rain, I collected eight specimens of this skink in or beside puddles formed on the bitumen road. They appeared to be absorbing large quantities of water because each specimen, when held upside down, released a copious amount of fluid from its mouth. This fluid was partly liquid and partly in the form of a slimy jelly. The rainfall records (kindly supplied by the lighthouse-keeper, Mr. Hollings) showed later that 25 points of rain had fallen that night and 5 points the day before. Apart from a negligible 3 points on December 29, 1957, this was the first recorded rain which had fallen since October 20 and 21, when 24 and 19 points respectively were recorded. This means that the lizards were actively hydrating themselves after a dry period of just over 13 weeks (93 days). The majority of the specimens were changing their skins or showed evidence of just having lost their old ones.

—R. M. SADLEIR, Zoology Department, University of Western Australia.

Record of a Sailfish in Western Australian Waters.—Whitley (*Aust. Mus. Mag.*, 11 (12), 1955: 377-383) lists in chronological order the record of sailfishes (*Istiophorus ludibundus*) taken in Australian waters. Altogether 19 occurrences are mentioned, five being from Western Australia. All are in north-western waters, but the localities of only two (90 Mile Beach, near Broome, and Sharks Bay) are precisely known. A further record is now added, making the sixth for Western Australia.

This specimen was caught by Mr. R. Zalan in September, 1957, off the State ship *Dulverton* while it was at anchor off Point Samson. When the ship reached Fremantle I inspected the fish and identified it as the sailfish (*Istiophorus ludibundus*). This identification was later verified by Mr. G. P. Whitley, from a photograph and information forwarded to him.

I took the following particulars of the fish, the measurements being in inches:—Total length, 93.5; head length, 27.0; greatest height of body, 11.0; length of pelvic fin, 21.2; length of pectoral fin, 11.7; length of upper jaw, 21.0; length of lower jaw, 10.5; height of sail at anterior end, 15.0. Dorsal fin count, 48 + 8. Anal fin count, 13 + 7.

Although it was not possible to obtain an accurate weight of the fish, it was estimated to be between 70 and 80 lb.

—B. K. BOWEN, Fisheries Department, Perth.

Recent Observations on the Naretha Parrot.—On Oct. 4, 1956, the writer made a trip between Zanthus and Naretha with Dr. A. R. Main, Dr. Frances Benedict and Mr. R. D. Royce. A total of about 35 Naretha Parrots (*Psephotus haematogaster narethae*) were seen between Naretha and a point 20 miles west of here. No birds were seen west of this point. The parrots were in pairs or larger groups of up to 8 birds. They were mostly feeding on the ground among the dry herbage, and a few were perched in trees.

Serventy and Whittell (*Handbook*, 1951, p. 233) state that the haunts of the Naretha Parrot are "the desert sheoak (*Casuarina decaisneana*) country that fringes the western edge of the Nullarbor plain." This brief description gives an erroneous impression of the habitat. The dominant trees in the habitat of this species are Acacias, most often myall (*Acacia sowdenii*), but narrow-leaved mulga (*A. aneura*) in some places. These trees are up to 20 feet high but the average height is about 12 feet. Much less common are false sandalwoods (*Myoporum platycarpum*) and *Eremophila alterifolia*. The sheoak, which is up to about 30 feet high, is *Casuarina cristata* and not *decaisneana*. There is little in common in the general appearance of these species. The casuarina is actually a scarce component of the habitat and occurs as scattered small groves and isolated trees. Whitlock, the discoverer of the Naretha Parrot, pointed out that "the clumps of casuarinas occupy only very small areas" (*Emu*, 21: 182). However, the sheoak is certainly the most important tree from the bird's point of view, as it appears to be the only species present in which hollows form.

There is a shrub stratum of saltbush and bluebush (*Atriplex vesicarum* and *Kochia sedifolia*). Ground cover consists mostly of grass (*Stipa* spp.) and xerophytic herbs (*Bassia* spp. and *Salsola kali*). The birds were feeding amongst the ground cover, most of which was dead. In some places where occasional parrots were seen the only ground cover was some sparse short dead *Stipa*, and there was much bare soil.

The writer is indebted to Mr. Royce for plant identifications.

—J. H. CALABY, Canberra.

A Record of the Euro near Northam.—One of the most interesting of the large kangaroos is the Euro (*Macropus robustus* Gould). As this animal is adapted for survival at low water intake levels, it is usually found as a plentiful species in restricted rainfall areas uninhabitable to most other macropods. It is thus of interest to record the occurrence of a colony of the Euro at Mokine, 55 miles from Perth, in an extensive forest of wandoo (*Eucalyptus redunca*) and powder-bark (*E. accedens*).

In July 1957 it was learnt of the occurrence of Euros in the area from Mr. V. R. Broomhall who had shot one animal on his property early in 1954 and seen a second in July 1957. Both occurrences have been previously reported in the Western Australian Fisheries Department Bulletin for Honorary Fauna Wardens, 1957, 4: 37.

Four visits were made to the area during the following months, August 1957, April, May and June 1958, in an attempt to obtain further information. On June 14, 1958, a dead adult female Euro was examined. It had been killed by a car on the Clackline-Spencers Brook Road, half way up the Mokine Hill, approximately four days earlier, and was in an advanced stage of decomposition. The fur was short and of a light tan colour with grey markings and appendages. The country immediately surrounding has been cleared, so it is presumed that the animal was travelling between uncleared areas. Later on the same day two kangaroos were seen at a distance of